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SPARKS FLY IN SPARKS' TALE

THE LOVEY-DOVEY WRITER IS BACK. PAGES 16-17

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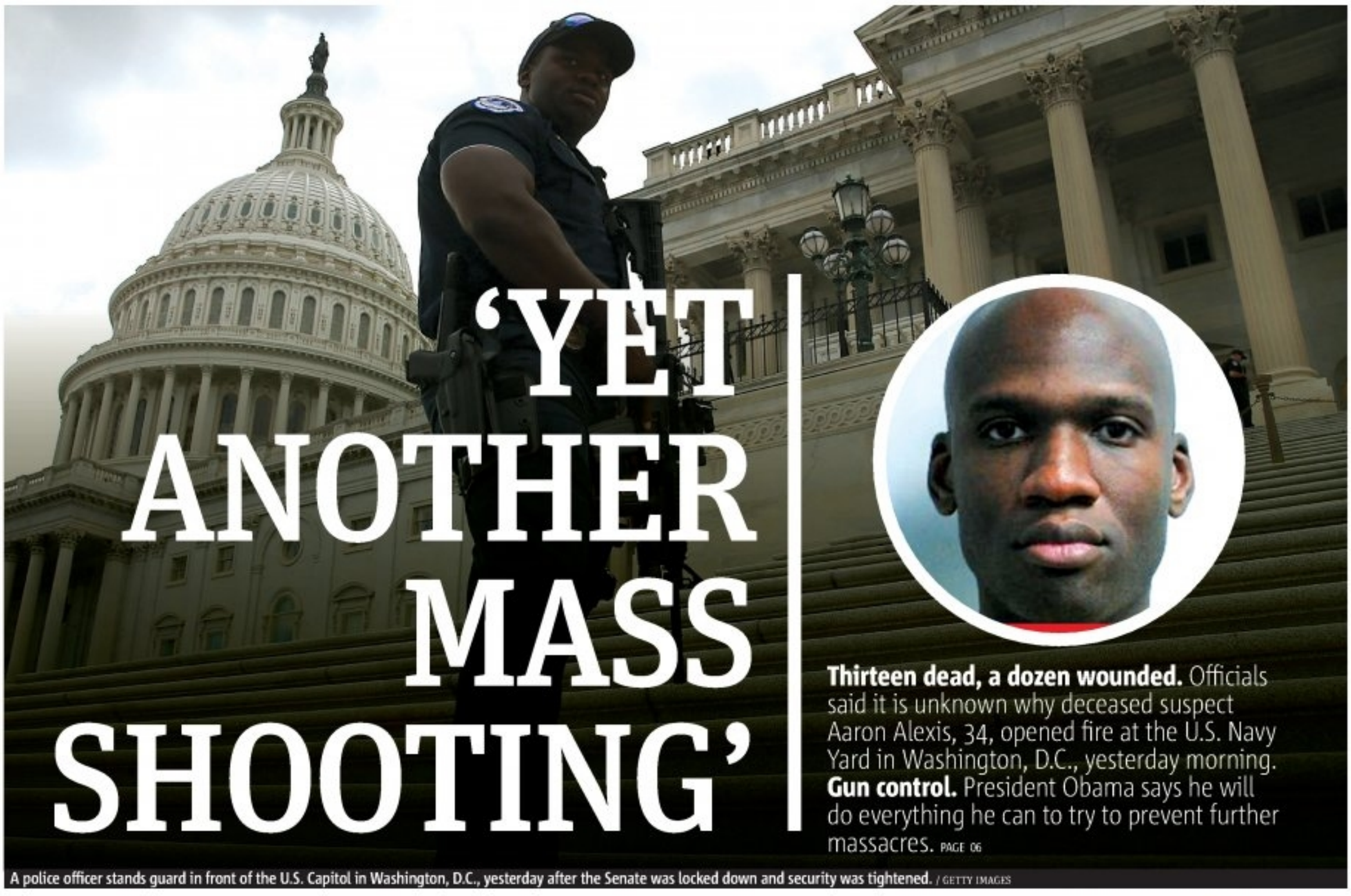

'YET ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING'

Thirteen dead, a dozen wounded. Officials said it is unknown why deceased suspect Aaron Alexis, 34, opened fire at the U.S. Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., yesterday morning. **Gun control.** President Obama says he will do everything he can to try to prevent further massacres. PAGE 06

A police officer stands guard in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., yesterday after the Senate was locked down and security was tightened. / GETTY IMAGES

Could minimum wage rise to $9 per hour?

PAGE 02

Why we can't get enough 'Sunny' Dee

PAGE 13

Drink up at these cities' epic Oktoberfests

PAGE 21

Opinion: Kelly lost a winnable game

PAGE 24

Senator to attempt minimum wage hike

Fair pay. State Sen. Christine Tartaglione will propose a minimum wage hike but may face a battle.

State Sen. Christine Tartaglione will be in Philadelphia today to announce a bill that over three years would gradually raise the state's minimum wage from $7.25 to $9 per hour and raise the hourly tipped minimum wage from $2.83 to $4.83, with both figures tied to an inflation index.

"The time is right to do it right now because it's being done nationally," Tartaglione said, pointing to the 10 states that have already raised their minimum wages and two that will take up the issue this legislative term. "We've got to keep in pace."

Tartaglione already raised the state's minimum wage in 2006, a hard-fought win that took six years to accomplish. "I cannot answer why it's such a battle every time," she said, pointing to a Republican-dominated Legislature and right-wing governor. "For me, this is a no-brainer."

John Dodds of the Philadelphia Unemployment Project said he feels the time is right for another increase. "One of the problems with our economy now is the jobs that are being created are all low-wage jobs, and without more purchasing power for people at the bottom, the economy stays sick," he said, calling the bill a "win-win."

"It's going to help families and the broader economy by putting more money in the hands of people toward the bottom," Dodds said.

Snapshot

Thompson's take-home pay is $430 biweekly. Food and transportation costs amount to about $180.

- Bills include student loans, cell phone and contributions to cable and electricity at his mother's house where he lives because he cannot afford to move out on his own.
- Thompson has no cushion to cover emergencies.

One person who knows all too well the difficulties of living on minimum wage is Brian Thompson, 24, a baggage handler at the airport who works for PrimeFlight Aviation.

"It really just becomes a matter of making decisions that you shouldn't have to make when you are actually a working adult," Thompson said. "I don't have any kids so I shouldn't have difficulty deciding if I'm going to pay a bill in full or if I'm going to make a bill past due."

Thompson said he feels "stuck" in his situation. "There's no mobility for me to travel, to do anything, to go anywhere because I have to go to work, and if I don't go to work, the money I'm making doesn't cover whatever I've chosen to do instead," he said.

32BJ SEIU state director Gabe Morgan said change is difficult because the fastest-growing jobs are service and retail positions furnished by large corporations with deep pockets. "Of course eliminating economic inequality is difficult when the biggest industries pay the lowest wages," he said. "If we had taken the same approach with American manufacturing in the '20s and '30s, they would've stayed the same sweatshop jobs they were in the '20s instead of the middle-class jobs we now reminisce about."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

NEWS

Top 3

What's trending at Metro.us

1. 'Moscow/Russia football team offers Tim Tebow $1 million to play'
2. 'VIDEO: Little girl tries to extort her dad for My Little Pony toy'
3. 'VIDEO: College student catches fish with his hair'

Local tweet

"Horrific....now 13 people have died in the Navy Yard shooting in Washington, DC. When will the madness stop?"

@Maureen_abms reacts to the deadly shooting spree yesterday at the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard.

On the stoop in Headhouse Square

A man takes a quick phone break on a stoop in Headhouse Square near South Street yesterday.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Denied. Controller calls on PICA to reject city's 5-year plan

City Controller Alan Butkovitz called on the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority yesterday to reject Philadelphia's updated five-year plan, claiming the city made "unreasonable assumptions" regarding how much revenue it will rake in during fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

"No recent five-year plan has had these critically low fund balances," Butkovitz said in a statement. "Any significant deviation because of unforeseen circumstances such as litigations, severe weather or future unexpected commitments to the School District of Philadelphia could drastically impact city operations."

He claims the city failed to illustrate its anticipated favorable impact of the economic recovery, didn't budget for some potential costs borne from ongoing municipal labor contract disputes and didn't take into account the impact of property tax appeals arising from the newly implemented Actual Value Initiative of assessments.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

Public safety

Boy, 12, sexually assaulted on way to school

A 12-year-old boy was sexually assaulted yesterday as he walked to school on the 3900 block of Brown Street in Mantua. Police said the victim was pulled into an alley and sexually assaulted by a teenager around 8:40 a.m. He was reportedly a student at Morton McMichael Elementary.

METRO

Gov. Corbett offers change to Medicaid, CHIP

Corbettcare. Gov. Tom Corbett's Medicaid reform plan would require that people pay premiums and look for jobs.

Quoted

"It is good to see Gov. Corbett acknowledge the reality that a majority of Pennsylvanians already understand: Medicaid expansion is vital to the health of Pennsylvania families, and to our economy."

The Pennsylvania Health Access Network

Philadelphians who utilize CHIP, Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program, for their children or Medicaid for themselves, might need to make some lifestyle changes if Gov. Tom Corbett's new proposal takes effect.

Yesterday, Corbett announced a new plan to reform Medicaid, which is a health insurance plan for low-income and low resourced people.

Under his reform plan, those who utilize the state's Medicaid would have to pay a monthly premium to keep it.

And those healthy, but uninsured, low-income and out-of-work people, would be required to prove they are searching for a job in order to receive Medicaid.

This plan was offered as states decide whether to participate in Obamacare.

Obamacare calls for expanded Medicaid that would be open to people earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, which is $15,000 for a single person and $32,000 for a family of four.

Corbett's plan would still need federal approval to move forward.

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Things are greener on Washington

Jon Gerena, from Moon Landscaping, works yesterday to beautify the Washington Avenue Green in South Philadelphia, ahead of new construction at the park planned to begin in October as part of the Central Delaware Master Plan. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Funding

Philly programs get grants

Congressman Chaka Fattah announced yesterday two Department of Justice grants totaling more than $1.2 million to the Philadelphia Children's Alliance and the City of Philadelphia's Youth Violence Prevention Collaborative.

The funds will help finance programs for young victims of sexual abuse and support technical assistance for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports in two schools with high suspension and violent incident rates: Tanner Duckrey and Richard R. Wright elementary schools. METRO

Travel plans

Zoo plans for new trails

The Philadelphia Zoo, with a $6 million grant from the William Penn Foundation, plans to open a new trail system next year that allows animals to travel and explore different habitats. METRO

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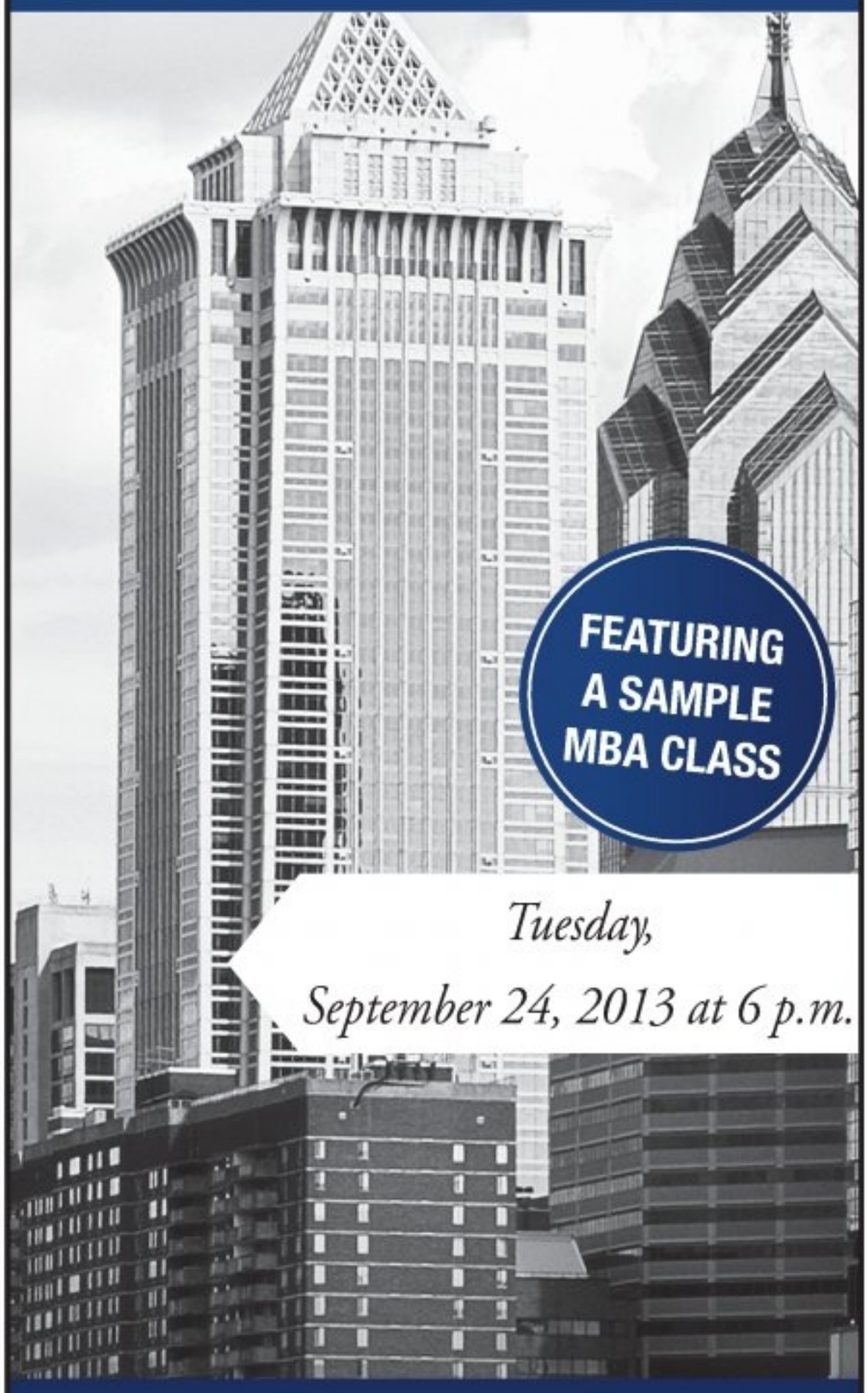

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Meet the man bringing Ashton Kutcher to Penn

Meaningful change. Bobby Turner's ideas have helped shape Wharton students.

Real estate mogul K. Robert "Bobby" Turner has brought celebrities like Eva Longoria and Andre Agassi to UPenn for his speaker series. On Wednesday, he brings Ashton Kutcher. The man behind the celebrities may set the local media atwitter, but he himself is virtually ignored.

Ironically, it's Turner's ideas that could change the world.

Turner, CEO and co-founder of Canyon Capital Realty Advisors in Los Angeles, is a radical in an Armani suit. He tells Wharton students: "You should not define success by making financial change working at an investment bank. Rather, you should define it by the amount of meaningful change you make in the world."

He is working closely with Wharton to design a multi-disciplinary social impact curriculum that he will fund.

"Generations Y and Z want different things than previous generations did. I want to better prepare them with the necessary tools to be able to seek out and obtain jobs that inspire them," said Turner.

Locally, Turner's Canyon-Agassi Charter School Facilities Fund was instrumental in establishing the KIPP charter schools in North Philadelphia. While acknowledging that advocating for charter schools can be controversial, he insists they are excellent operators.

Kutcher speaks

On Wednesday, Kutcher may talk about tech companies and his charity Thorn, which fights against the sexual exploitation of children by using technology.

- Recently, Kutcher defined sexy as "being really smart."

LAURA GOLDMAN
letters@metro.us

Seeing the light of day

A pedestrian walks beneath the covered pathway of the historic New Market in Headhouse Square.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Freebies

City kicks off fall tree giveaway

The city announced yesterday the opening of preregistration for this fall's TreePhilly Yard Tree Program, which will provide 2,500 free trees to Philadelphia property owners.

Residents can register through Oct. 31 on TreePhilly's website. METRO

Powerball

Deli sells $1 million ticket

A Powerball ticket worth $1 million was sold at a deli in Northeast Philadelphia, lottery officials said yesterday.

The ticket, which hit on the Sept. 14 drawing, was sold at Bi Rite Deli, at 3220 Red Lion Rd. METRO

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Alex Sanchez, Boston

Category: Sight

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Navy Yard shooting leaves 13 dead in D.C.

Military. Personnel are generally banned from carrying weapons on military installations.

Police tactical units respond to the shooting. / GETTY IMAGES

A 34-year-old man opened fire at the U.S. Navy Yard yesterday in a shooting that left 13 people dead, including the gunman, not far from the U.S. Capitol and the White House, officials said.

The suspect was identified by the FBI as Aaron Alexis of Fort Worth, Texas. Washington, D.C., police chief Cathy Lanier told reporters that Alexis "was engaged in shooting with police officers" when he died.

Valerie Parlave, assistant director in charge of the Washington field office of the FBI, asked the public for help with information about Alexis. Authorities said they were searching for another possible gunman wearing military-style clothing.

Earlier, officials said they were looking for two men, but then said police had established one of them was not a suspect in the shooting, which began at about 8.30 a.m.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Vincent Gray said 13 people were killed and a dozen or more injured at the Naval Sea Systems Command, one of five such commands where civilians, military personnel and contractors build and maintain Navy ships and submarines. About 3,000 people work there.

REUTERS

Obama

President Barack Obama said the U.S. is facing "yet another mass shooting" with the armed attack at Washington's Navy Yard yesterday and vowed to hold accountable whoever was behind it.

Shooting

Shooting suspect discharged from Navy after misconduct

Aaron Alexis, a Brooklyn native, received a general discharge from the Navy Reserve in 2011 after a series of misconduct issues, said a Navy official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The official declined to detail the types of misconduct in Alexis' record.

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Study: Exercise, diet habits improving among youth

Tube. The average number of hours students spent watching TV each day fell from 3.1 to 2.4.

Over the last decade, U.S. kids and teenagers have started getting slightly more exercise and reduced their television watching, a new study suggests.

Using surveys conducted in middle and high schools, researchers also found increases in the number of days youth reported having breakfast each week and in how often they ate fruits and vegetables. Those trends have corresponded to a leveling off in obesity rates, but not a decline, the study showed.

"I would like to believe that all the public health efforts focusing on increasing physical activity and increasing fruit and vegetable consumption are having an effect, because that seems to be a pattern," Ronald Iannotti, the lead author on the study from the University of Massachusetts Boston, said.

"The fact that [obesity] is leveling off, that's a surprise and a major change from the steady increase that we've seen over time," Iannotti, who worked on the study while at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Bethesda, Md., said. "This is great news."

REUTERS

Survey

15K

Each survey period included responses from between 9,000 and 15,000 adolescents.

The researchers found "encouraging" trends on measures of most diet and lifestyle habits. / GETTY IMAGES

Non-compliance

Western powers say Syria must face consequences

France, Britain and the United States called yesterday for a swift U.N. resolution committing Syria to remove its chemical weapons, but Russia introduced a note of caution about imposing strong consequences if President Bashar al-Assad failed to comply.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reaffirmed that an accord reached at the weekend with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov targeted a U.N. resolution referring to sanctions for non-compliance, including a new Security Council resolution.

REUTERS

Syria attack

UN chemical experts confirm sarin gas used

U.N. chemical investigators yesterday confirmed the use of sarin gas in an Aug. 21 poison gas attack in the suburbs of Damascus.

As expected, the report does not say who launched the attack in the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Ghouta.

"On the basis of the evidence obtained during the investigation of the Ghouta incident, the conclusion is that chemical weapons have been used in the ongoing conflict between the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, also against civilians, including children, on a relatively large scale," said the report by chief U.N. investigator Ake Sellstrom of Sweden.

REUTERS

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The rules of the game

Student athletes past and present weigh in on the things that make college sports worth it, or not.

BRUCE WALSH
letters@metro.us

According to the NCAA, there are more than 430,000 student athletes on campuses across the country. Every fall thousands of freshmen discover they must walk a tightrope between academic and athletic pressures — often, with a year-to-year scholarship on the line.

As the 2013-14 athletic calendar kicks off, we checked in with student athletes both past and present for advice on how to juggle and manage the student-athlete experience.

Emily Dorko

Sport: Softball and volleyball
School: Adelphi University
Current position: MBA graduate student
Career highlight: .495 batting average in 2013, academic achievements

What do you wish you knew before you went to college?
Coaches sometimes forget you're a student first. When you're under pressure, it's easy to let your studies fall by the wayside.

Where can athletes go for help and advice?
There were multiple places to go at Adelphi. I think what's missing at most schools is a liaison between athletes and their coaches — someone to take the student's side.

Karen Weaver

Sport: Field hockey
School: Lock Haven University
Current position: Professor of sports management, Drexel University
Career highlight: Coached Salisbury University to an NCAA Championship in 1986

What do you wish all athletes knew before they started?
At some point, athletes often realize that there's a whole other world that they'd like to experience — studying abroad, etc. They don't realize that when they take that scholarship they're really beholden to the coach.

Alyssa Englert

Sport: Basketball
School: University of Hartford
Current position: Point guard for the U. Hartford Hawks
Career highlight: Leading the 2012-13 Hawks with 92 assists

What do you wish you knew before you became a student athlete?
I wish I knew the team and the coaches a little better before I arrived. I only visited once. It was a big adjustment.

Where can athletes go for help and advice?
I'm not really sure. Even if I knew, I'm not sure I'd reach out in that way.

Welch Suggs

Sport: Track and field
School: Rhodes College
Current position: Professor of sports journalism at the University of Georgia
Career highlight: Author of the definitive book on Title IV: "A Place On the Team"

What do you wish all athletes knew before they arrived on campus?
That college athletics are a business, and that is the primary motivator of nearly all the adults surrounding them. That means the schedule may be unfair, and your scholarship may be adjusted. Most athletes aren't prepared for that. It's not the most nurturing atmosphere in the world.

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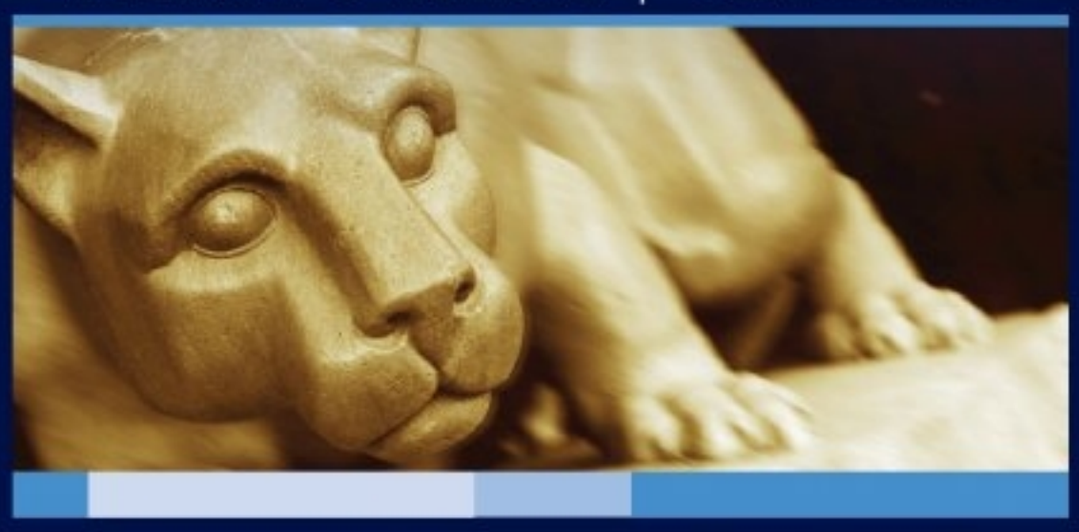

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117 Arizona State Univ. - Carey	134 Univ. Pittsburgh - Katz
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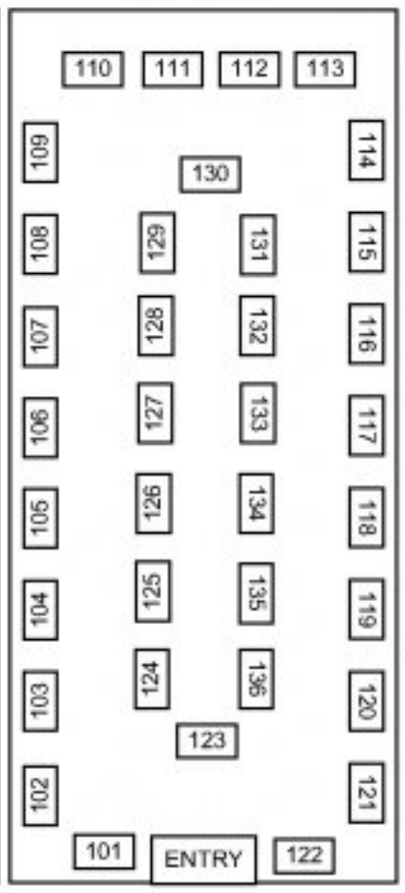
Floorplans



Seminars

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5.00 - 5.45 pm Room 113C	Panel Discussion **CHOOSING AN MBA PROGRAM** By Univ. of San Francisco, Johns Hopkins, Univ. of Pittsburgh & Drexel Univ.
5.45 - 6.30 pm Room 113C	Panel Discussion **GETTING INTO BUSINESS SCHOOL** By American Univ. - Kogod, Univ. Maryland & Temple Univ.
6.30 - 9.00 pm Room 113A	**OPEN MBA FAIR** Your chance to speak to all schools at this fair
8.30 - 9.15 pm Room 113C	Alumni Career Panel **Alumni Panel from Harvard Bus. Sch. & Wharton** By Admit Advantage

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102 Admit Advantage
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MBAs: Earn while you learn?

Part- or full-time?
While there is a financial and professional case for it, working while studying for an MBA can pose challenges.

ESADE MBA candidate James Doherty, far right, is seen here with his Origin team. / PROVIDED

Full-time MBAs are called that for a reason — if you sign up for one, you're going to have to wholly dedicate yourself to business education for 12-24 months.

However, this doesn't mean that some enterprising students don't work while they study. One such example is ESADE MBA candidate James Doherty, co-founder of Origin, a startup which lowers costs for small businesses in India by aggregating costs.

The main challenge, he says, is ensuring neither work nor school is neglected: "A potential drawback is losing focus. Am I going to devote time to making sure the business runs smoothly or spend that time making sure I pass classes?"

For those who want to continue working while they study for an MBA, a more plausible option might be to consider a part-time format designed for those who want to continue working — a partially online program in which modules can be taken at the candidate's own pace, or for the more experienced candidate, an executive MBA (EMBA).

Alejandro Casasempere is enrolled on the latter format at IESE Business School. He warns that, even though the EMBA is part-time, time management is still a major challenge: "It is difficult to give 100 percent of your attention to a management position and an EMBA simultaneously. Both require your undivided attention."

However, these time-management challenges are edifying in themselves, says Pamela Brady, who heads up the EMBA program at the University of Texas at Dallas' Naveen Jindal School of Management. "One of the unexpected outcomes of working while pursuing an MBA is the refinement of your time management skills, which is transferable to all facets of your life."

Double duty

"A potential drawback is losing focus. Am I going to devote time to making sure the business runs smoothly or spend that time making sure I pass classes?"

James Doherty, co-founder of Origin

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Five tips

How to prepare for the GMAT

A good score can make all the difference, so make sure you give yourself as good a chance as possible.

1 Don't leave it until the last minute. It sounds obvious, but don't put off prepping until close to the test; if you know you've got to sit it, you might as well as start now so you don't get any unpleasant surprises. The experts recommend six months.

2 Identify your weakness. You might find some parts of the GMAT come naturally, while others will pose more of a challenge; work out which the latter are and focus on those – it'll be good prep for your MBA, too.

3 Do some practice runs. This will help with No. 2 and allow you to get to grips with the format of the GMAT, and how you can best manage your time during the test.

4 Don't go it alone. Utilize available preparation materials as well as the free resources offered by GMAC. There are also many paid-for resources to help test-takers prepare. It's worth making a small investment to get a better idea of what awaits you and how to prepare for it.

5 Don't change your normal routine close to the test. Inevitably, preparing for a major exam is going to affect your routine, but try and keep it normal as much as you can. You don't need anything else to worry about, after all.

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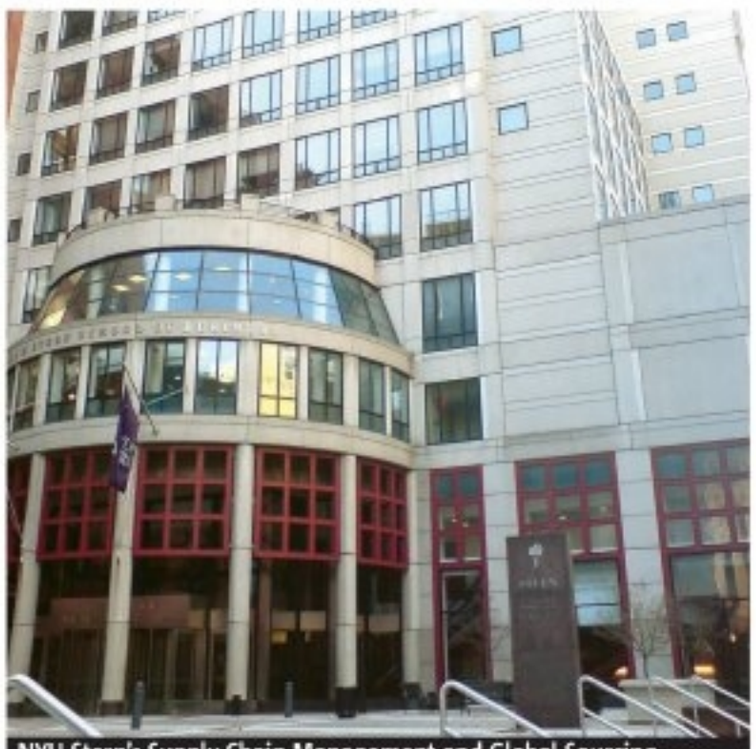
Does finance and strategy consulting leave you a little cold? Try one of these specialized MBA programs if you're looking for something a little bit different.

Energy and Clean Tech

Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley
The energy and clean tech area of emphasis at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business is all about finding renewable and sustainable sources of energy, working in conjunction with the university's Silicon Valley scientists, and the bringing them to the market. You say alternative energy; Haas says alternative business opportunity.

Supply Chain Management and Global Sourcing

NYU Stern
Supply-chain management has emerged as one of the fastest-growing — and consequently lucrative — MBA specializations in recent years. With increased public scrutiny in the social media age as well the still-growing complexity of global business, it's essential to get it right. NYU Stern's specialization looks at global outsourcing strategy, business process design and implementation and building and managing customer relationships.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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Seth MacFarlane has some advice and Steve Martin is clearly excited.

@SethMacFarlane: It's not Friday, but follow @Albert-Brooks anyway cuz he's a goddamn genius.

@SteveMartinToGo: I can't wait to buy the new telephone.

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Miley Cyrus in actual clothing. It's a good look for her, right?
/ PROVIDED

1 Has Miley been planning this craziness all along?

Miley Cyrus is on the cover of the new Harper's Bazaar, looking demure — but then again, maybe she looks good because we're not used to seeing her actually wearing clothing.

The article doesn't mention The Twerk Heard Around the World™ but she does coyly mention trying to become omnipresent. And, as we all know, it's working.

"It's been a year since I started trying to take over the world," the actress told the mag. And who do we have to thank for this new Miley? Pharrell Williams, whom she calls her "rock." "His philosophy is that it's not what you're wearing, it's the way you wear it. It's not about the music you're making, it's how you're making it."

And in a rare display of maturity, Cyrus opens up about why she acts the way she does. "I was an adult when I was supposed to be a kid. So now I'm an adult and I'm acting like a kid." Super deep, Miley. Maybe there is a method to your madness after all?

BRITNEY SPEARS
WIREIMAGE

Britney Spears heads to Vegas for a huge payday

Britney Spears has signed a two-year contract with Planet Hollywood Las Vegas to be the headliner of a "cool, hip, club-like show," per producers. Her payout is a cool $310,000 per show, with the starlet performing 48 shows a year.

The final payout will be around $15 million a year, per TMZ.com. In May, Spears talked to Shape about how she is training for the gig. "I'm doing 90 minutes of yoga twice a week in addition to a lot of cardio — hour-long sessions three times a week with my trainer, Tony Martinez," she said. "The [Vegas] performances won't be simple — they'll be a massive party from start to finish. And to pull this off, I have to be in top condition and running at full speed."

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

3 Jaden Smith on education reform

Jaden Smith took to Twitter for a series of pontifications about youth and society. "School is the tool to brainwash the youth," he wrote. "If everybody in the world dropped out of school we would have a much more intelligent society." I'm just going to throw it out there — that isn't really true.

The 15-year-old has been home-schooled since earlier this year, when the New Village Leadership Academy — founded by his parents with an allegedly Scientology-influenced curriculum — was shut down.

Talking points

Affleck can take your criticism

Complain all you want about Ben Affleck being cast as the next Batman, he can take it. In fact, to hear his wife, Jennifer Garner, tell it, the couple likes to laugh at some of the more outrageous online reactions to the news — or at least she does. "I'll send him stuff and I'll say, 'Come on, this is a good one,'" Garner tells Metro World News. As for sparing Affleck's feelings, Garner says not to worry about it. "Look, he's a grown-up, he's been around a long time. He's a pretty tough guy. You don't take one of these jobs expecting anything else," she says.

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KAITLIN OLSON

The only chick in one of the rudest, weirdest, most maniacally funny boys' clubs on TV speaks up.

IT'S ALWAYS FUNNY ON FXX

FX

When "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" premiered on FX in 2005, it was a sitcom the likes of which basic cable had never seen. Crude, irreverent to the point of insanity and unapologetically, delightfully offensive, it didn't seem destined for mainstream fame or long-term success. Now in its ninth season (on the new FXX), it's still going strong. Kaitlin Olson, who plays Dee Reynolds, opens up about the show's unexpected longevity.

What was your initial reaction when you first read Dee's character?
You know, I first read scripts and it was amazing. But the characters I was in love with were the male characters. So when they first offered [Dee] to me I said, "Listen: I definitely love this show, I love the writing, I love these characters that you've developed — except for the girl character." And Rob [McElhenney] said, "We absolutely want everyone to be interesting and unique and have their own very specific character, but still be funny." I'm glad that I trusted him, and that he wasn't lying. [Laughs]

Want more?

Read the long form of this interview online at **www.metro.us/entertainment**. And catch "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on FXX.

All of the characters are despicable but lovable at the same time.
I don't know why they're lovable! I think it's because they're so ridiculous, and so positive of their convictions — which are ridiculous. And I think I've just decided that underneath it all Dee is just sort of incredibly insecure, and there's something a little vulnerable in that, which is disarming. And I think maybe that's why you don't hate her, because she's just trying to scratch her way to the top of this little group.

I think maybe it's because you recognize bad parts of yourself in them, but they're so unapologetic that you almost respect it.
That's really interesting, because that also kind of describes Rob's personality, and one of the things I love about him [Ed. note: The two are married in real life]. Rob doesn't apologize for anything. And I think that's definitely written into our show. It's unapologetic, and it's stuff you'd never say, but maybe things that you're thinking. Specifically, the first time we did "Lethal Weapon 5" — the whole conversation about the blackface? I mean, I was just watching it from the monitors, but I was crying. It was so funny to me because they were having a really open, honest discussion about why certain blackface was appropriate.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
alexandra.cavallo@metro.us

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Expanding the

Transgender. Joe Ippolito is making gay and lesbian film festivals more inclusive.

Joe Ippolito, who identifies himself as a trans-man, didn't like what he was seeing at gay and lesbian film festivals. For him, there weren't enough films about the gender nonconforming, the gender variant and the transgender communities.

"There has been a lack of inclusion in gay and lesbian film festivals traditionally over the years around the country," Ippolito says. "Most of them are getting better, and they're starting to recognize the importance of more inclusion of transgender people."

That's happening in part because of Ippolito. He founded the Gender Reel film festival in 2011 in Philadelphia, and this year

Festival founder Joe Ippolito wants to see more films about the transgender experience. / JOE IPPOLITO

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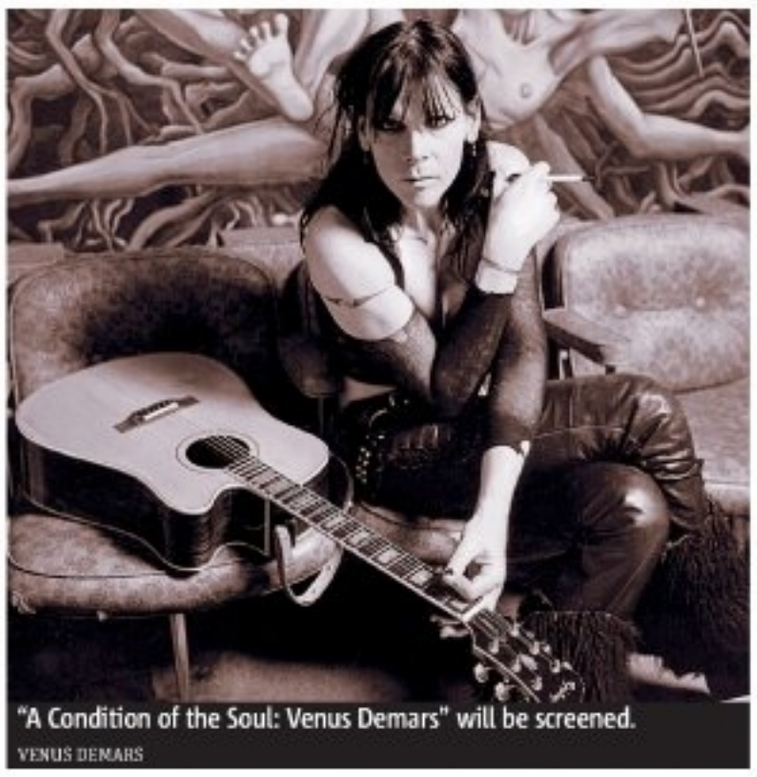
Gender Reel fest



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VENUS DEMARS

If you go

Gender Reel

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$10 for single day, $20 for festival pass
www.genderreelfest.com

it's going national, with Gender Reel festival events in Minneapolis, Portland and Oakland.

The Philly Gender Reel takes place Thursday through Saturday at the Rotunda.

"The gay and lesbian film festivals were not getting submissions of films from the transgender experience, and the reasons for that are larger issues, such as the funding sources," Ippolito says. "They were mostly films about gay men, and they're being funded by people who are privileged and white."

The Gender Reel fest is a DIY affair of 22 films interspersed with live music performances over the three days. The Friday night program is free. Film subjects include gender non-conforming children, a look at the Riot Grrrl punk movement of the '90s and a tribute to the late porn filmmaker and trans-man Christopher Lee. Ippolito, currently living in Minneapolis, is also working on his own film, "Growing Old Gracefully: The Transgender Experience."

CHRIS JORDAN
letters@metro.us

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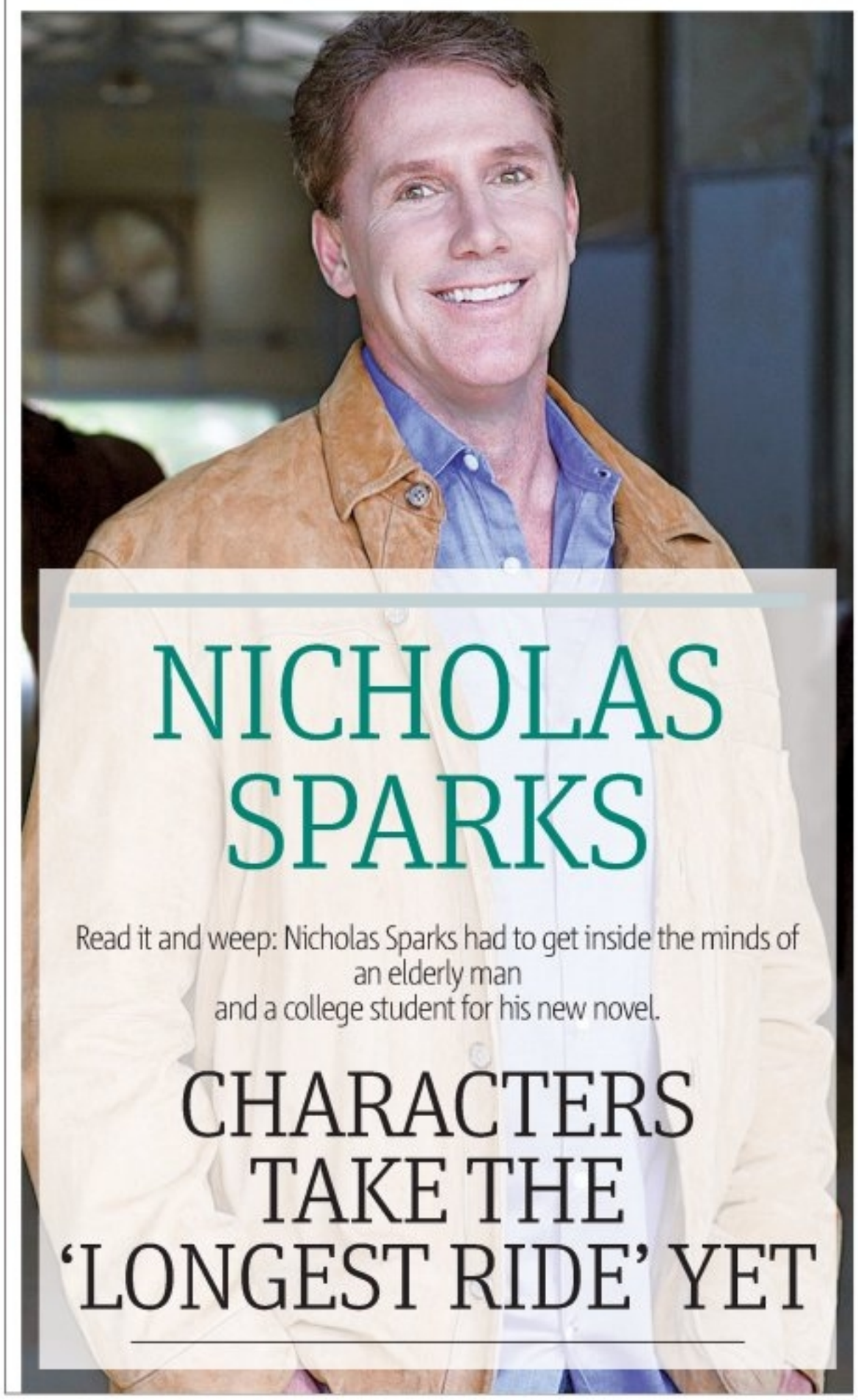
NICHOLAS SPARKS
Read it and weep: Nicholas Sparks had to get inside the minds of an elderly man and a college student for his new novel.
CHARACTERS TAKE THE 'LONGEST RIDE' YET

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Nicholas Sparks adds double the love stories in his latest novel, "The Longest Ride," which weaves back and forth between two different couples. Characters we meet include Ira, a 91-year-old man stranded after a car crash and thinking back on his decades-long marriage, and Sophia, an East Coast gal who meets Luke, a bull rider, on a fluke night out. Sparks, known for romances that readers devour and often become movies (most recently "Safe Haven"), spoke to us about getting into the minds of both an elderly man and college student and keeping the romance alive at home.

How did you come up with this idea? A recent trip to the rodeo?
Stories come from a variety of different ideas. Sometimes they've been inspired by events in my past or people that I know, or a scene that I want to explore. This particular novel came from an image of what I wanted the big surprise at the end of the book to be. I knew that, and then I knew the feeling that I wanted to create: surprise and wonder and "Oh my goodness, I can't believe that just happened, did I read that right?"

Was anything different about writing this, compared to your other novels?
The way I wrote it was different. Basically what I did was, I wrote Ira and Ruth's story up to the point where Ira's story intersects with Luke and Sophia's. Then I literally set Ira aside, on my desk by my computer. Then I wrote Luke and Sophia's story. Then I wrote all the way through to the end. … Then it took three hours to drop all those sections into the appropriate place.

What kind of research do you do for your books? Do you ever feel you need to explore what your characters do — in this case, that would be riding bulls or being trapped in a car?
I did not ride any bulls, but I've watched a lot of YouTube videos. My kids like [watching] the bull riding, my wife and I enjoy it. Certainly I did a lot of research, reading into bull riding in general. I have a brother-in-law who lives on a ranch, and so much of the information about the ranch, including the size of the ranch and how they spend their days, is really drawn from his specific experience. The 4H, that's my nephew's experience, the horse named Horse, that's my brother-in-law. I asked the same questions as Sophia, "What do you mean you have to roll the pumpkins?" These are literally drawn straight from my conversations.

What's something you haven't been able to experiment with yet? A setting, or a genre or a character?
I'm really fortunate in that the genre I work in allows me to really experiment with a lot of elements from other genres. In "Safe Haven," I was able to add a thriller element. In "The Notebook," I was able to add nostalgia. In "The Longest Ride," I'm able to add an epic element.

ALISON BOWEN
letters@metro.us

High expectations

Last question for you: You write such romantic books; is there a high expectation of flowers and romantic dates in the Sparks household?

There is. I do get my wife flowers; I send her cards. I just got her perfume for no reason, put it on her pillow with a card. I do my best. She's a great lady, and she deserves a little bit of romance.

If you go

Nicholas Sparks

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BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Historical

1930s- HOLLYWOOD THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY VOL. 1

FRANK N. BRATHWAITE

INFORMATIVE, SHOCKING, AND AMUSING

30s Hollywood has been covered in great details over the decades. In spite of this, *1930s- hollywood the Good, The Bad and The Ugly Vol. 1* provides a concentrated review of what made the decade stand out as a winner. Vol. 1 focuses on Tinseltown's highs and lows throughout a turbulent period in America's history. On the backdrop that was the Great Depression, Hollywood was able to deliver the goods to a society that had just about given up. The "movies" were the only form of cheap entertainment that provided escapism for the millions of distressed and temporarily displaced people across the country. The volume also delves into the lives of two charismatic individuals whose talents, smarts and overall appeal changed the history of the cinema forever. Plus the book compatibly covers a topic that remains as omnipresent as it was back then, Gossip! Inside, readers will get a quick case study on the origins of the "fans magazine" and how it evolved into the conglomerate of entertainment based publications, via online media outlets that we all are fortunate to have with us today. In modern times, many are still interested in showbiz and celebrities. It's the reason Hollywood is a billion dollar industry. Nonetheless, fascination with celebs began long ago during Hollywood's silent days. Vols. 2 and 3 completes the trilogy. Demand will bring these volumes to the marketplace expediently in the near future .

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The best way to do that? Make it automatic. Behavioral finance research shows that if you set up a regular, automatic transfer to your savings or retirement account — or have your employer do it for you — you'll be amazed at how quickly your savings will add up.

Glad you're nodding! Now do something. Set a reminder on your calendar or phone (research shows these alerts help, too).

You're going to need a bit of a better retirement strategy than this. MONKEY BUSINESS

2 Be smart about where you save. If you have a 401(k) or something similar, start saving here, no matter what. Save as much as you can, especially if your employer offers a match.

If you don't have access to a 401(k) — many people don't — you can open an individual retirement account, or IRA. Just be sure to go with a low-cost company, and be wary of cash incentives to open an account — which might mask other hidden fees.

Generally, if you meet the minimum balance requirement (and some companies waive that if you make automatic deposits), your IRA should cost no more than 1 percent of your total savings per year.

3 Take the long view. If investing your hard-earned money into stocks, bonds and mutual or index funds sounds scary, that's a natural fear. Here's what you need to look for: Low fees, index funds (which are also typically low-cost), and no "get-rich-quick" promises

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JON STEIN

Jon Stein is the founder and CEO of Betterment. / PROVIDED

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As you 'like' it.
How to invest in the social media age

By now, we all know what social media is best for: Instagram shots of your delicious brunch, videos of cute kittens and a twerking Miley Cyrus.

But could your Facebook and Twitter streams also be a rich mine of potential stock ideas?

The folks at Likefolio.com think so. The service, which launched in August, scans your social media feeds for the top five stocks that you and your buddies are talking about and spits out a hypothetical portfolio.

The service is free, but for it to work, you have to grant access to your Facebook and Twitter accounts, which might give some privacy activists a stroke.

"It's all about allowing people to use social media to extract greater value out of that dialogue," says Nicole Sherrod, managing director of TD Ameritrade's trader group. "It's like the old Warren Buffett concept: Invest in what you know."

A fun idea, that there might be some real wisdom in the torrent of tweets out there. But that notion alone is enough to give some personal finance experts the willies. "I find it terrifying, to be honest," says Cliff Robb, an associate professor of personal financial planning at Kansas State University.

Intrigued by the idea, Reuters writer Chris Taylor tells Metro that he plugged his own information into LikeFolio. The top five stocks chosen: Facebook Inc., Apple Inc., Google Inc., Yahoo Inc. and LinkedIn Corp.

The good news: $10,000 invested in those stocks would have turned into $16,261 in a single year, garnering 62.6 percent annual returns over the past 12 months.

REUTERS

LikeFolio

Check out the Biebs' portfolio

LikeFolio allows you to compare your own top stocks against those mentioned in celebrity social media feeds, with the minds of 162 top celebrities probed for their musings on companies.

The top five results: Nike, Google, Apple, Facebook and Viacom, with a $10,000 investment up $3,887 in a year.

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London Fashion Week

SUNDAY

3:20 p.m.
Topshop Unique

Between all the leggy skirts and back-revealing dresses I've seen so far, it's hard to tell which body part will get the most play come spring. Both ideas feature prominently in the Topshop show — from the opening look (a cute forest green jacket, graphic blouse and matching flouncy mini) to all the backless slip dresses. But some of the simple, low-maintenance shapes are deceptive: Those tiny spaghetti straps barely do their jobs in keeping the models' breasts covered. The graphic shirtdresses however, look much easier for the average Topshop consumer to wear. KH

MONDAY

10:45 a.m.
Christopher Kane

About an hour before Christopher Kane's show, I received a press release announcing that he'll be opening his first store in London next year. That's no doubt due to an investment from the luxury conglomerate Kering earlier this month. And tellingly, this collection reveals a new sense of maturity, commercialism and polish. But impressively, Kane doesn't sacrifice the creativity that has made his show one of the week's biggest tickets. Note the way he balances the wearability of a beautifully tailored black suit with the directional quality of those plastic, futuristic appliques decorating both. Other pieces are a bit more visionary, such as a series of futuristic dresses that look like they've been sprayed with metallic color. They are as memorable to this collection as his neon laser-cut lace, graphic camouflage and leather crochet moments from seasons past. KH

Topshop Unique / GETTY IMAGES

CHRISTOPHER KANE
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Prost! Oktoberfest has finally arrived

Festivals. Break out the lederhosen; it's time for copious amounts of beer.

You might not expect it, but Denver is widely praised for its Oktoberfest. / PROVIDED

What started out as a celebration to mark the marriage of two Bavarian royals in 1810 has turned into a global annual kegger. The mother of all Oktoberfests is a 16-day, beer-fueled party in Munich, Germany, that has spawned countless imitations. Here are a few in America that will be worth your time and sobriety.

Oh my! George Takei!

Oktoberfest Zinzinnati
Cincinnati, OH
Sept. 20-22
The country's largest Oktoberfest celebration draws a crowd of more than 500,000 (consuming 1.6 million ounces of beer), and it's no surprise why. Cincinnati's German community has been a prominent presence since the 1800s. The party takes up six blocks and is free. But perhaps the biggest draw this year will be the World's Largest Chicken Dance, hosted and led by "Star Trek" and Internet legend George Takei.

The Napa Valley of beer

Oktoberfest Denver
Denver, Colo.
Sept. 27-29, Oct. 4-6
Though it doesn't have strong German roots, it's no surprise that the Mile High City boasts what USA Today and Maxim magazine have touted as "The Best Oktoberfest" in the United States. Denver appears to be vying for the title of America's Beer Capital with its breweries, brewpubs and the largest beer festival in the country. Oktoberfest Denver will offer the requisite "Food, Bier, Music and Stein Hoisting" at its fest. David Hasselhoff loyalists will be pleased to hear that the 5K run, Das Hustlehoff, will pay tribute to The Hoff.

Munich, USA

If you are longing for an Oktoberfest experience closer to the real thing, head to one of these.

Leavenworth Oktoberfest
Leavenworth, Wash.
Oct. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19
Once the headquarters for the Great Northern Railway, the city of Leavenworth found itself struggling after the railroad relocated early in the 1900s. In 1962, a committee was formed, its sole task to revitalize the city's economy — by turning Leavenworth into a replica of a Bavarian village.

Frankenmuth Oktoberfest
Frankenmuth, Mich.
Sept. 19-22
Although Michigan is synonymous with American beer, Frankenmuth, Michigan's Little Bavaria, promotes its German heritage and boasts the first Oktoberfest outside of Munich to be officially sanctioned by the mayor of Munich, so you know this one has to be good.

JANET CHOI
janet.choi@metro.us

In the Northeast

Vermont

Vermont has the highest number of breweries and pubs per capita, with labels like Magic Hat calling the Green Mountain State home. Visit VermontVacation.com to book one of six Oktoberfest-themed Beer Lovers Getaways, which include brewery tours, tastings and other ale fun. We'd recommend booking a ticket on the Green Mountain Railroad's Fall Beer & Wine Tasting Train, which takes you on a scenic route of your surroundings.

Attention Homeowner
Final Notice

Dear Homeowner, this notice is a final response to previous notices you may have received. Great news! Government insured programs are still available for home improvement projects. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under Title One of the National Housing Act has made financing programs available to YOU, the qualified homeowner. The Energy Conservation Loan Program (ECLP) is approving applications for home improvement and repair regardless of income or home equity.

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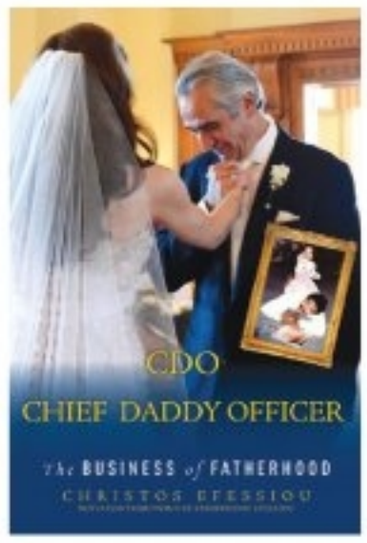
How business can teach you how to be a better parent



Who's the boss? "Chief Daddy Officer" Christos Efessiou has learned how the two worlds mesh.

Christos Efessiou didn't know much about parenting when his daughter Persephone was born. What he did know was business.

In his new book, "CDO Chief Daddy Officer: The Business of Fatherhood," Efessiou teaches that parenting can directly parallel with the business world.

He gave us tips on how to successfully apply a business-minded approach to parenting.

Lead by example

"The most important thing is that parents need to be mentors to their children, and they need to actually lead by example," says Efessiou. "That means you cannot say to your child, 'Do as I say, not as I do,' because that's not how children learn, that's not how adults learn."

Proactive parenting

"In business, we don't start a business without a plan," he says. "We plan the elements of the business. So in parenting you have to make the conscious decision to decide what kind of parent you want to be and what it is that you're willing to sacrifice to become that parent."

No parent BFFs

"You cannot be your child's buddy," Efessiou says. "There is not a single situation that I am aware of that that's worked in. ... You really need to be able to assert yourself in days of turmoil and days that your authority needs to be exercised. If you are friends with your employees, they will not respect you all of a sudden becoming the boss."

Emotional vs. physical

Being a present parent

Can parents have it all? "Absolutely," answers Efessiou, "but not in the same moment."

Even as a CEO traveling all around the country, Efessiou believes you can still be a present parent.

"Parents can be furthest from their children sitting at the same couch watching TV — they're worlds apart," he notes. "Then there are other parents that travel all of the time, and they're as close to their children as a heartbeat away.

"The parenting of a child is as much emotional as it is physical," says the author. "The child knows you love them as long as they feel you loving them — whether you are in the same house or the other end of the world."

Empower their decisions

"The best way to empower them to make decisions is to give them options," explains Efessiou. "Give them a reasonable number of options that you have presorted, and then allow them to pick."

Efessiou refers to this as the Socratic method because it fosters debate. "It is based on the information of exchange between both sides," he says.

"You're empowering them to be responsible," says the author, "and the choice is theirs, but not entirely, because you have narrowed it down for them."

JULIE KAYZERMAN
letters@metro.us

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Horoscope

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You can talk your way into a deal that will help you prosper. Show how dedicated you.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Move forward with caution. Whether you are dealing with a friend, lover or colleague, you have to listen carefully.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Enjoy whatever comes your way today. Look for groups or interests that can offer you something emotionally, domestically or educationally. Opportunity will knock.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. An idea you have or a service you can offer will lead to a potentially valuable contact. Be prepared for unexpected yet valuable surprises.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Don't give up when things start to get difficult. Perseverance will set you apart. Be open to ideas.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Take a cautious financial attitude today. Stick to a budget and refuse to believe someone offering the impossible. Protect your assets and reputation.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Demonstrate what you can do. Your clever plans and talents will interest someone looking to get involved in a new project.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Don't be afraid to take charge of a situation that has left others stymied. Follow through on your commitments. Don't overreact or overindulge.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Shifting conditions will worry others, but keep an open mind. Not everyone will be happy, but your judgment will be sound.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Don't turn down an opportunity to attend a social function that could lead to networking. Your ideas to improve efficiency will lead to an enhanced reputation.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. What you learn attending an event will lead to conflicts with your past and conquests in your future.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Distance yourself from a personal situation and focus on the positive changes that can be made on your own with little fuss.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	3		4	1	5	9		
					8	2	6	3
						1	5	
7			5			3	8	
				7				
	8	3			6			7
	6	1						
9	5	8	1					
		7	3	8	9		1	

		2	4					7
		4			8		6	
6			7		5		3	
	6		1	7			5	4
7	1			3	4		9	
	2		3		7			9
	3		9			6		
4					2	7		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

GMO business is booming, and so are our fears

Re: 'Take a kinder look at good ol' GMOs' (Metro, Sept. 16) Letter writers Matt Bronsan and Kelton Barnsley prepared a great case to alleviate fears concerning GMOs in Metro.

I also believe the future of feeding 8 billion people resides in the science of genetic modifications. My fear is in the "business" of biotech patents and not the production of crops.

Monsanto's genetically modified corn seed is proprietary merchandise controlling almost 90 percent of all corn crops grown in this country.

Farmers aren't allowed to regrow previously harvested seeds, but are forced to buy new GM seeds every year! This system of legalized agricultural racketeering will be more harmful than any GMO ever created.

RICHARD BRITTLE, VIA EMAIL

GMOs are a-maize-ing purveyors of nightmares

Re: 'Take a kinder look at good ol' GMOs' (Metro, Sept. 16) Letter writers Matt Brosnan and Kelton Barnsley, reiterating the simplistic view of genetically engineered organisms put out by Monsanto could/should experience firsthand, like I have, the violence attributed to making GMO foods. GMO foods are made by inserting one gene with a needle into another gene. After eating non-GMO foods for a very long time, because I thought they were dangerous, I accidently ate some GMO corn and experienced a horrific nightmare of needles being shot into my body. Never again will I knowingly eat ANY GMOs.

DAVID SNIECKUS, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

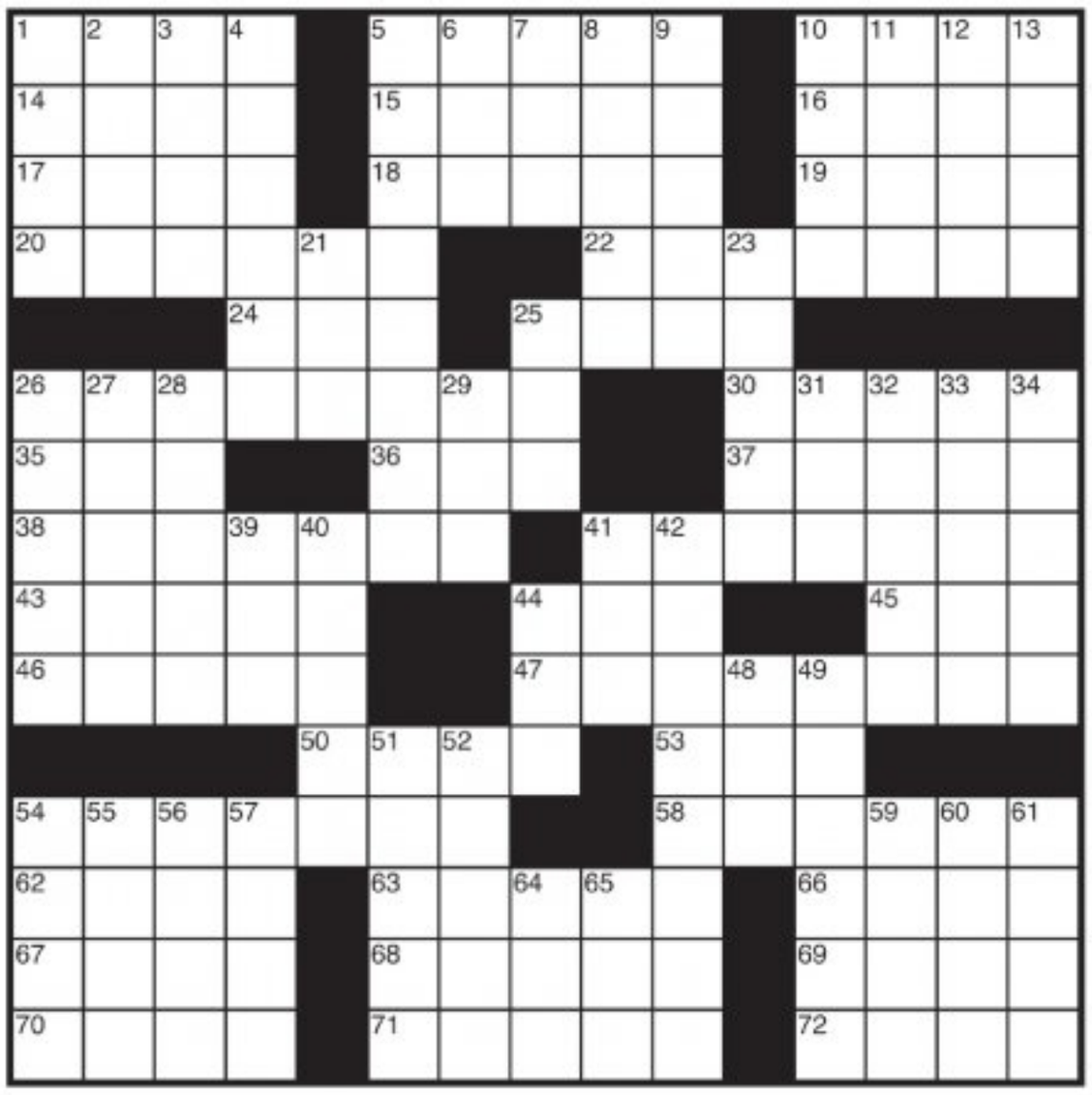
Across

1 Flamingo, e.g.
5 Demolish
10 Fish lander
14 Essay byline
15 Pimiento holder
16 Huron neighbor
17 Uris or Spinks
18 Italian seaport
19 Almond and ecru
20 Mentally sharp
22 Occupy
24 Plant sci.
25 Dept. store inventory
26 To a degree
30 Rides the rapids
35 Crack pilot
36 Pause fillers
37 Ms. Winfrey
38 Prosperity
41 Daydream
43 Spud
44 Aurora, to Plato
45 Versatile vehicle
46 Beginning
47 Flute relative
50 Guzzle
53 U2 producer
54 Having deep pockets
58 Interstellar cloud
62 Liverpool poky
63 Not silently
66 Swindle
67 Electrical units
68 Doggerel
69 Gymnast – Korbut
70 Albacore
71 Screwed things up
72 Humorous Ogden

Down

1 Mr. Lugosi
2 Seine aits
3 Barrel of laughs
4 River in a waltz
5 Side by side
6 Fiesta shout
7 Sardine holder
8 Eschew
9 Props
10 "-- -- grip!"
11 Emir or sheik
12 Foreign film ender
13 Gala
21 Tug's chore
23 Egret cousin
25 Natural elevs.
26 Dealt with (2 wds.)
27 Shark domain
28 Turns to liquid
29 "How -- things?"
31 Unusually bright
32 Hoax
33 Likes and dislikes
34 More bashful
39 Doctor's payment
40 -- -craftsy
41 Catwoman, to Batman
42 Neared the summit
44 Foot-pound kin
48 Individual
49 Highest peak of the Canadian Rockies
51 Do tapestries
52 Time waster
54 Execs
55 Diamond Head locale
56 "Shanghai --"
57 Ms. Klensch
59 NCAA Bruins
60 Falls behind
61 Memsahib's nanny
64 Bobby of hockey
65 Function

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

Corner back

Fletcher back at practice

Eagles starting cornerback Bradley Fletcher was back at practice yesterday after sitting out last Sunday's game due to a concussion. Fletcher seemed fine when he talked to reporters after the two-hour session, saying he was back to normal last Tuesday; he just needed to be medically cleared. He's expected to start Thursday night. Cornerback Brandon Hughes was the only Eagle missing from practice, due to a hamstring injury.

CHIP KELLY FLUNKS FIRST BIG TEST IN NFL

With Andy Reid secure in his new Kansas City home, our worries were over. There would never again be any teeth-gnashing or hand-wringing over late-game strategy — not with a quick thinker like Chip Kelly around.

Uh, hold that thought. The Eagles lost a game Sunday at Lincoln Financial Field because of a pitiful defense, some stupid penalties and — above all — illogical thinking by Kelly at the end of a winnable game. The smartest coach on the planet went blank at the worst possible time. He blew the game.

The explosive Eagles offense had moved the ball onto the doorstep of an improbable win, 14 yards from a touchdown that would erase an afternoon of mistakes and provide a 34-30 victory. The clock was ticking down to the two-minute warning, and the Birds would have three tries at the end zone before a field-goal attempt that would, at the very least, put them into overtime.

But then Kelly and his offense did something ridiculous, something implausible. The Eagles raced to the line, snapped the ball at 2:09 and managed to get both quarterback Mike Vick and tight end Brent Celek injured on the same ill-fated pass. Moments later, San Diego had the ball back with 1:55 to play, tied at 30.

How was this possible? How could Kelly, a man who had lost seven games in four-plus seasons as a head coach, ignore the clock and stay in his hurry-up offense? At that point, his defense had given up close to 500 yards. He had to know another drive by quarterback Philip Rivers would be fatal.

The voice of Philly sports

ANGELO CATALDI

When I asked Kelly these questions on my WIP radio show yesterday, he said "in hindsight" it probably would have made more sense to wind down the clock, but he wasn't thinking about that at the time.

"We were just focused on scoring a touchdown there," he explained.

Unlike Reid, Kelly's answer was respectful, and also unlike Reid, he left the distinct impression that he would learn from the mistake. But still, it was stunning to see a coach with his obsessive attention to detail make such a glaring error in judgment. This was Football 101, and Kelly just flunked the first big test.

In the end, the coach said he was disappointed in everyone after his first NFL defeat — the secondary for allowing 413 passing yards, the defense for permitting 10-of-15 third-down conversions, the offense for squandering several chances and a few players for boneheaded penalties.

But when he looked at the tape, he realized what we all knew after that maddening loss. The victory was still right there, 14 yards away, with two minutes left when Chip Kelly himself lost his way, and then lost the game.

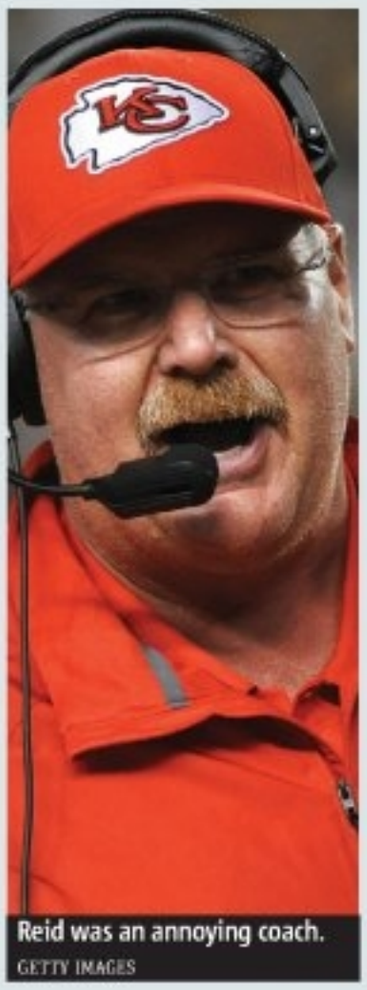
Cataldi's take

The Eagles raced to the line, snapped the ball at 2:09 and managed to get Mike Vick and Brent Celek injured on the same ill-fated pass.

Vick had to sit out a play after being injured on a pass attempt.
GETTY IMAGES

Opinion

Renewed Birds can't let Andy Reid beat them in his return


Reid was an annoying coach.
GETTY IMAGES

Andy Reid absolutely must not beat the Eagles when he returns to Lincoln Financial Field Thursday night. If there is a wide smile under that bushy mustache at game's end, the bubble of hope created by Chip Kelly will burst. Reid must lose — preferably in a humiliating manner.

Think about it. Kelly took over a 4-12 team smothered by the slow thinking and tired cliches of Reid. By the end of his 14-year tenure here, Reid had frustrated much of the city and many of the players with his uninspiring presence. He disrespected fans with his robotic answers to the simplest questions. He ruined football here for at least two seasons.

The very last thing Philadelphia needs to see on Thursday night is an invigorated (and undefeated) Reid lead the 2-14 dog of a Kansas City team he inherited to its third straight win over the Birds. It wouldn't just be a victory for the past over the present, it would be a conquest for a man not worthy of one. Reid may be the most successful coach in Eagles history, but he will always be the most annoying one, too.

If you want to know how his players really feel about him, all you need to do these days is study their recent comments. Last week, Jason Kelce called the 2012 Eagles "stagnant." LeSean McCoy praised the new coach's ability to call plays quickly and effectively. DeSean Jackson held hands with Kelly at practice last week and said he felt "renewed." They were as sick of Reid as we all were.

And so now we have reached an early crossroad in Chip Kelly's promising career as Eagles coach. If he sends Reid out of here a loser, it will be a gratifying moment for Philadelphia. But if Reid somehow prevails, we will all plunge right back into the long nightmare we just escaped.

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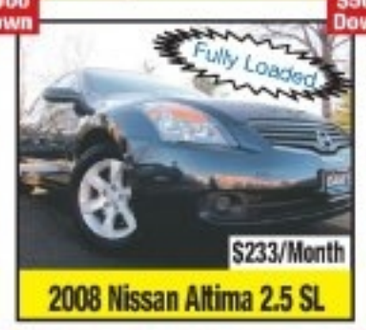

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Cataldi. Montgomery to blame for Phillies' recent fall from grace

Now that Charlie Manuel is gone and Ruben Amaro has won the title of village idiot, it's time to focus on the real problem in the Phillies' organization. It is a man beloved by everyone for his gentle nature and his winning past. It is president Dave Montgomery.

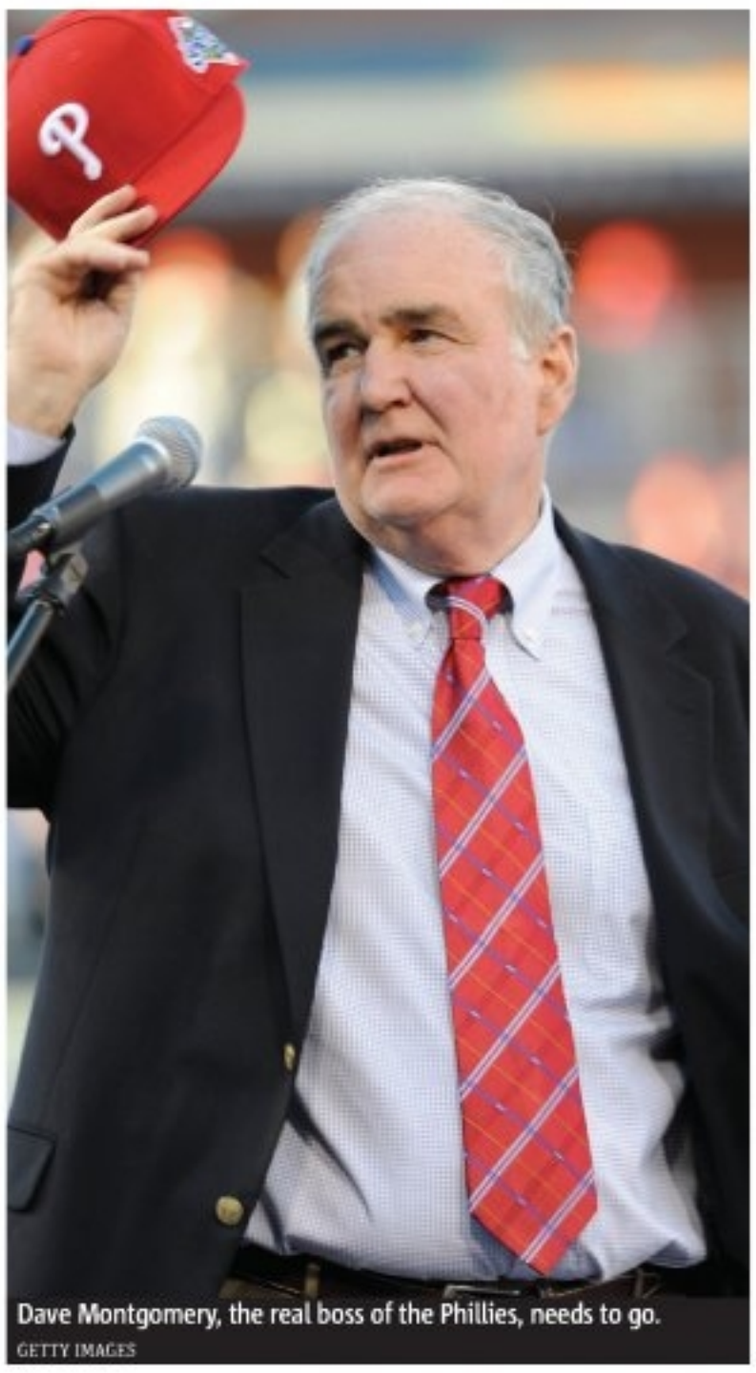
As if fans hadn't been insulted enough by this unwatchable team playing out the final weeks of a dreadful season, Montgomery somehow thought it was a great time to offer a resounding vote of confidence to Amaro in an interview last week that established just how blind to reality the boss has become.

First, he said, "Oh, Ruben is our general manager" — as if the notion of replacing a man who has destroyed the roster of a championship team was absurd. Then, Montgomery proclaimed that the people who had identified Jayson Werth as a great player are still there today, looking for the next undiscovered gem.

Hello? The GM when Werth arrived was Pat Gillick. Yes, Gillick is still technically a consultant for the Phillies, but he isn't responsible for signing Delmon Young, trading for Michael Young and assembling one of the worst outfields and bullpens in team history.

Montgomery also spoke optimistically about the Phillies returning to glory soon, especially with a windfall of new TV money on the way. He is in denial.

The Phillies are a losing team with an old roster and a clueless GM. Until the real boss — Dave Montgomery — realizes just how grave the situation is, we should brace for more rotten seasons like 2013. ANGELO CATALDI



Dave Montgomery, the real boss of the Phillies, needs to go.
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Hungry like the Wolff at safety

NFL. The rookie is seeing more snaps, but still doesn't have the full trust of the coaching staff.

Wolff was in for 49 defensive plays Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

The chorus to make Earl Wolff the starting safety has never been louder. Not after Nate Allen was literally run over in Sunday's last-second loss.

Sorry, it's not happening — at least, not yet. Eagles coach Chip Kelly doesn't think the rookie is ready to take over Allen's spot on a full-time basis.

"I think Earl is growing, and we'll continue to grow him, but he's still making some mistakes out there," Kelly said. "I think they're bringing him along, and we're excited about what his future is, but we still don't feel he's ready to go the whole way."

It's pretty clear that Wolff is the future. Allen has had four years to prove himself and he hasn't been able to do it. He can't stay healthy and lacks the physical presence needed to play the safety position. As a result, Wolff's snaps increased dramatically against San Diego. He was in on 49 defensive plays — Allen had 63 — after seeing just eight snaps in Week 1.

"He was OK," Kelly said of Wolff. "You know, wasn't 100 percent but wasn't in the failure category, so he's still a work in progress."

Judging by those sentiments, it sounds like Allen will hold on to the starting spot for another week. But make no mistake about it, Wolff is charging hard. Each rep he gets is an opportunity to steal Allen's job.

"Every rep is an opportunity and regardless of how many reps I get ... if it's 10, if it's 20, if it's five, I just want to go out there and take advantage of every single rep I get," Wolff said.

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NFL

Jags fans rally for Tebow

Jaguars fans held a rally in support of Tim Tebow. The group wants the team to sign the former Florida quarterback.

The rally began at 3:16 p.m. and it was scheduled to last three hours and 16 minutes — a tribute to the bible verse Tebow wrote on his eye black. METRO

MLB

Utley finalist for award

Chase Utley is the Phillies' nominee for the 2013 Roberto Clemente Award.

The annual award recognizes a major-leaguer who best represents the game of baseball through positive contributions on and off the field. METRO

Zach Johnson wins BMW tournament

Golf. Johnson took a two-shot victory over Nick Watney and Jim Furyk.

Zach Johnson won the rain-delayed BMW Championship yesterday after carding a 6-under 65. Johnson, who shot a 16-under 268 for the four-day tourney, scored a two-stroke victory over Nick Watney.

West Chester native Jim Furyk entered the final round as the leader, but finished in third, three strokes off the pace. Last Friday, Furyk became just the sixth player in PGA Tour history to shoot a 59.

"I don't know if I used them all up on Friday and knocked them all in or what, but I just wasn't able to get the putts to go," Furyk told The Associated Press.

Tiger Woods finished tied for 11th, good enough to keep him atop the FedEx Cup standings. The series ends this weekend at the Tour Championship. Johnson enters as the No. 4 seed.

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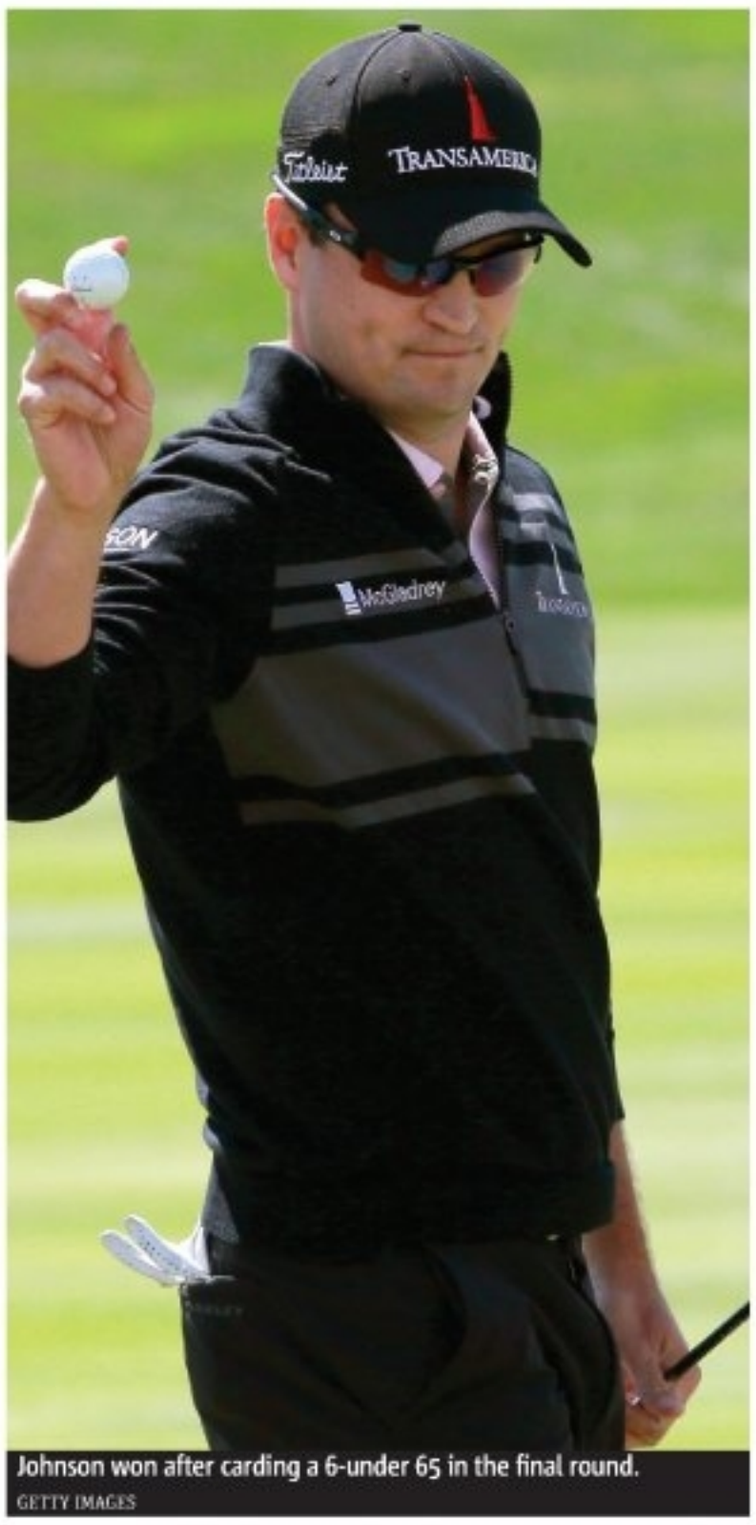

Johnson won after carding a 6-under 65 in the final round.
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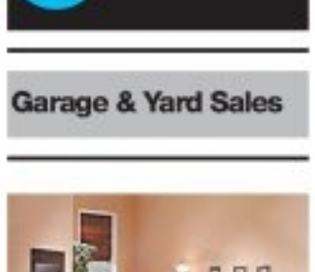

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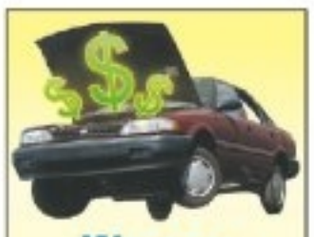

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